

ORCA RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Justin Allegro

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Population in Decline

Linked threats:

- Fewer fish available
- Noise & disturbance makes foraging harder
- Burning fat releases toxic chemicals into their bodies



Matt VanderHagen, WDFW

Governor's Executive Order

March 2018

- Immediate actions for state agencies
- Established Task Force
 - ✓ Charged with developing action plan
 - ✓ Year 1 report due November 16, 2018
 - ✓ Year 2 report due October 1, 2019



Associated Press photo

Priority Salmon Stocks for SRKW

1. S. Puget Sound (fall)
2. L. Fraser (fall)
3. L. Fraser (sum 0.3); N. Puget Sound (fall, sum/fall)
4. L. and N. Thompson (spr 1.2); N. Puget Sound (sum); LCR (fall, tules); Central Valley (fall/late fall)
5. WA coast (fall, spr, spr-sum)
6. N. Puget Sound (fall); UCR su/fa (upriver fall bright); Snake R sp/su
7. UCR su/fall (fall bright)
8. E. Vanc. Isl (fall); U. Fraser, N. Thompson (spring 1.3); LCR spr; Klamath (fall, spr); Central Valley (spr)
9. WA Coast (spr-su, fall), UCR spring, su

Task Force

- Stephanie Solien & Les Purce, co-chairs
 - Diverse membership
- Three Working Groups
 - Vessels, Contaminants, Prey
- Public Review Draft
 - Public comment: Sept. 24-October 7
 - Working Group recommendations to TF:
 - Immediate actions
 - Actions to start in Year 1 for max effect
 - Task Force to discuss at upcoming meetings
 - October 17-18
 - November 6

Chehalis Strategy Implications Summary

- Support for funding SRFB and WCCRI 19-21 budget and continuing higher funding for Chinook for 10 years. But not currently supporting funding for ASRP.
- Identification of Grays Harbor Estuary in new proposal that is unlikely to be broadly supported.
- Salmon reintroduction and barrier removal analysis could touch on Chehalis Basin
- Previous discussion associated with new Chinook barriers not forwarded to the recommendation list.
- Funding for increased hatchery production where consistent with salmon recovery.

Prey Draft Actions: Habitat

1. Fund Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to support existing capital budget salmon recovery accounts (Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program (PSAR), Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), Floodplains by Design (FbD), and Washington Coast Restoration and Resilience Initiative (WCRI)) with no changes to existing project lists. Provide additional funding to these programs for at least 10 years to focus on high priority actions for the Chinook stocks that most benefit SRKW.
2. New estuary-specific capital program coordinated by the regions with through RCO with a dedicated funding source. Specific estuaries in PS, Columbia, and Chehalis basins identified.

Prey Draft Actions: Habitat

3. DFW rules to fully implement & enforce Fishway, Flow, and Screening statute. Rescind/amend Hydraulic Project Approval authority to require mitigation for cumulative impacts over time.
4. DFW, ECY, Attorney General increase criminal prosecution of habitat/water quality violations, and legislatively enhance civil enforcement. Provide DFW with administrative enforcement tools equivalent to locals, ECY, DNR.
5. Revise single-family exemptions and exemptions for docks & shoreline armoring (SMP) and bulkheads & rock walls (HPA).
6. Develop a habitat protection/regulatory reform legislative package for upcoming session.

Prey Draft Actions: Habitat

7. Legislature & federal agencies create an additional mechanism and increase funding for cooperative conservation programs implemented by CDs, LEs, or individual landowners.
8. ECY to identify how to improve prey availability through existing habitat & water quality regulations and report to TF by June 2019. Improve voluntary compliance & increase enforcement.

Prey Draft Actions: Hatcheries

Pair one of these with habitat improvements:

- 1A: Increase hatchery production in a manner consistent with wild fish conservation, recovery plans, and ESA
- 1B: Test pilot actions in hatcheries in 2019
- 1C: Do both 1A and 1B

Prey Draft Actions: Hydropower

1. DFW, regional salmon recovery orgs, NOAA, tribes, local govt. assess and prioritize places to re-establish runs above dams.
2. DFW & regional salmon recovery organizations compile and prioritize list of barriers for Chinook benefit for the TF by June 2019. Fund in barrier removal in 2020 supplemental.

Prey Draft Actions: Predation

1A: Continue development of science to understand extent of pinniped predation in Puget Sound and outer coast; identify and implement management options.

1B: Adds pilot and monitoring of removal or alteration of artificial haul-out sites in Puget Sound.

3. Consult with DFW & Invasive Species Council, then reclassify nonnative predatory fish from game fish to invasive species to allow & encourage removal in waters containing ESA-listed species.

Discussion

